# Abstract

An improved method and system for reading and analyzing fingerprints is disclosed. According to the present invention, fingerprints are scanned and then analyzed to determine a value in dependence upon a predetermined acquisition parameter, such as for instance one of a moisture content of the fingertip and an applied fingertip pressure. The scanned fingerprint is subsequently processed to remove "false minutiae" in dependence upon the determined value, whilst retaining authentic minutiae for user authentication. Processing the fingertip to determine a condition thereof prior to image processing results in a more selective removal of minutiae, thus resulting in a larger set of minutiae being retained for comparison to a stored biometric template.